

Natural Outlook December 2011**Central Texas Environmental Summit Draws 300****Transcript of: TCEQ Commissioner Carlos Rubinstein on Central Texas Environmental Summit**

TCEQ Commissioner Carlos Rubinstein: The model will be different everywhere. This area has a proven track record of coming together, working on an identified environmental concern, and working towards solving it. The addition of the townhall meetings with the state elected officials, I think it's fantastic. One, it gives everyone an opportunity once again to speak to their elected official. But it also may instruct and result in changes in state statute that allows us to better address these environmental concerns going forward. The presentation we heard this morning, there's a lot of lessons to be learned about that. If you were a community that could say, 'I had a 60 percent increase in population and yet my water consumption has remained the same,' even through that growth, that speaks volumes for what you've done. And all of us can learn from that. And when we're experiencing the drought of the magnitude we're experiencing in Texas today, being able to capture these best ideas and taking them forward is great for all of us. And we're all really good about identifying problems. The harder part is how do we have the honest discussion of how we can work together to effectuate the change that we want.